

FAMILY UPDATE 2008



ROGER KAHN, M.D. OUR STATE SENATOR

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Dear Neighbor:

In these challenging times, our families are more important than ever. They are a source of love and strength. That is why I have made protecting our families and our most vulnerable citizens a large focus as your State Senator.

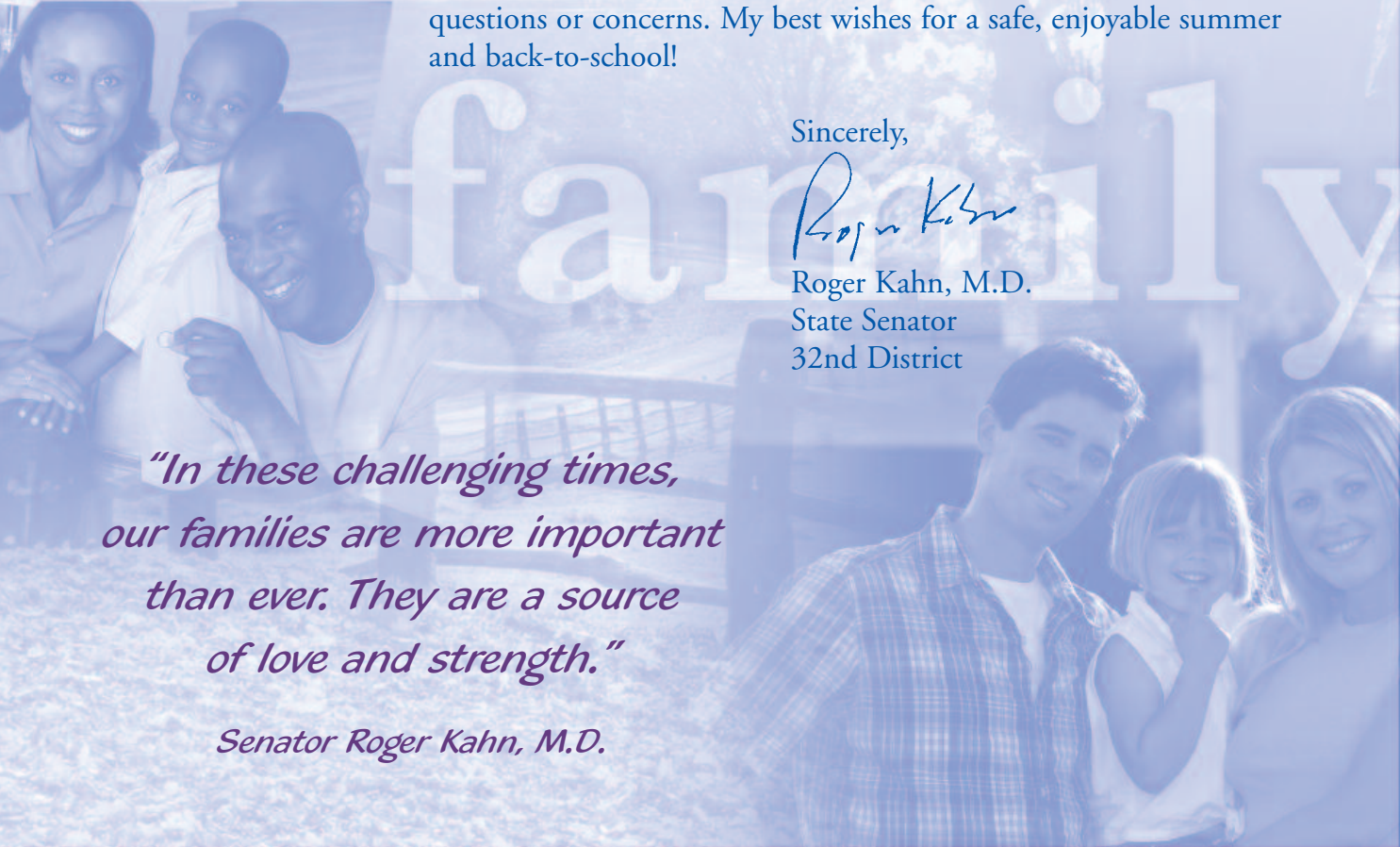
I am pleased to share several family issues that may be of interest to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me toll-free at 866-305-2132 or by e-mail at senrkahn@senate.michigan.gov if you would like further information on any of these topics.

I am honored to be your voice in Lansing and will continue to work hard on your behalf. I hope you will call on me if you have any questions or concerns. My best wishes for a safe, enjoyable summer and back-to-school!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Roger Kahn in blue ink.

Roger Kahn, M.D.
State Senator
32nd District

A large, faded background image of a diverse family (mother, father, and two children) smiling and sitting outdoors. The word "family" is written in large, light blue letters across the middle of the image.

*"In these challenging times,
our families are more important
than ever. They are a source
of love and strength."*

Senator Roger Kahn, M.D.

KAHN VOTES TO KEEP KIDS SAFER

Effective July 1, 2008, Public Act 43 of 2008 requires that all children under the age of eight, and who are shorter than 4 feet 9 inches tall, be securely fastened in a booster seat while riding in a car or truck. Michigan now joins 38 other states with an expanded child seat law.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children over the age of one. In a crash, safety belts that are designed for adults can contribute significantly to a child's injuries. A child sits higher with a booster seat, so the seat belt fits properly and provides better protection. Booster seats reduce a child's risk of injury by 60 percent.

The good news is that booster seats are readily available at most stores and are often provided free of charge to those in need. The best news is that **using a booster seat immediately increases child safety.**

For more information, please visit www.michigansafekids.org.



Senate bills will protect children

After hearing in committee about a recent child abuse tragedy, my colleagues and I introduced a package of bills to provide more accountability among child protection agencies. The legislation will:

- Require government agencies to work together during protective services investigations;
- Require an investigation checklist to use in child abuse and neglect investigations; My bill, SB 1421, would also specify that an investigation could not be closed until the checklist is completed and reviewed for compliance with state law.
- Clarify "torture" in determining whether to remove a child from a home; and
- Add Friend of the Court to the list of mandatory reports for child abuse and neglect.

When a child's welfare is at stake, it's essential that everyone involved in a case communicate and share information to provide the strongest protection possible.

Senate Bills 1418-1421 have been referred to the Senate Committee on Families and Human Services.

KAHN PROTECTS OUR CHILDREN FROM TOXIC TOYS

As a doctor, I am deeply concerned about the vulnerability of children to toxic substances contained in their toys. For children under the age of two in particular, materials like lead can inhibit brain development and lead to learning disabilities and other cognitive defects.

This concern led me to sponsor a new law, Public Act 159 of 2007. The law bans the distribution in Michigan of any children's toy that contains lead or any other toxic substance or is contaminated with such a substance. Fisher-Price's unfortunate recall last year of 1.5 million toys made in China because the paint contained too much lead underscores the urgent need for the law. Other companies have since issued similar recalls and warnings.

With this new law, Michigan has sent a message to foreign toy manufacturers that we are serious and will not tolerate dangerous toys in the hands of our children.

Senator Kahn affirms life with vote

Just last month, Michigan yet again had the opportunity to ban the practice of partial-birth abortion with a Senate bill approved by a Republican Senate and a Democratic House. Sadly, the measure was vetoed by Governor Granholm.

Senate Bill 776 was crafted to meet the legal standard by directly reflecting the language from the federal partial-birth abortion law which has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Medical experts have refuted claims in testimony before Congress stating that partial-birth abortions are never medically necessary to protect the life or health of the mother. It pains me as a doctor to see such a terrible procedure presented as a viable option for expectant mothers.

Although I am greatly disappointed in the veto and will work for an override, I am heartened that the Senate continues to lead the way in the protection of our most innocent. Michigan residents have repeatedly made their opposition to this barbaric and dangerous procedure clear.

KAHN SUPPORTS BILLS THAT FIGHT TERROR

Michigan residents can be assured that their hard-earned tax dollars won't be used to bankroll terrorists. Under legislation led by the Senate, certain Michigan funds would be divested from public companies actively doing business with terrorist countries, including Iran, Sudan, Syria and Cuba.

The legislation also requires the Michigan Department of Treasury to identify the names of companies conducting business with terrorist countries on a public website.

At least 16 other states have enacted divestment measures and 31 other states are considering such legislation. The thirteen Senate and House bills put Michigan at the forefront with the nation's most comprehensive divestiture bill package.

It is simply unacceptable to invest public dollars in companies that do business with state sponsors of terror. I am pleased that the bills have now been signed into law.





State Senator Roger Kahn, M.D.

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TIPS ON WISE CHARITABLE GIVING

Even in tough economic times, Michigan citizens give generously to help others in need. Whether your donations help people in local communities or around the world, it's important to know how your money will be used.

The Michigan Attorney General's office licenses more than 4,000 charities and offers tips for wise giving, including:

- Request information in writing from the charity, including financial information.
- Contact the organization directly to verify where and how your money will be used.
- Call the Attorney General's Charitable Trust Section to check out the information at (517) 373-1152.

You will find a list of licensed charities and more information at www.michigan.gov/ag. Click on charities on the right sidebar.

SENATOR KAHN SUPPORTS PARENTAL CONSENT WAIVER REFORM PLAN

Sometimes it's hard to grasp the fact that teenagers can get an abortion without their parents even knowing. Current law requires parental consent for an abortion performed on a minor, but allows for a judicial waiver to get around parental consent.

I supported legislation that would tighten this provision and eliminate "judge shopping" when a minor seeks an abortion without parental consent. Senate Bill 1059 prohibits a family court judge from approving a parental consent waiver if one has already been denied by another judge.

I firmly believe that parents should be involved in serious decisions affecting their daughter's health and well-being, especially when that decision involves another life.

